

## HOMEROOM ANNOUNCEMENTS GRADES 4-12

Announcements in homeroom are recommended at least twice prior to the introduction of the new dialing procedure in the 310 area code effective on July 26, 2006. If your school is in session during July, we suggest a reminder on Friday, July 23, if possible.

### **Main Message:**

On **July 26 2006**, **all calls** from phone numbers with the 310 or 424 area code will require that you dial **"1" + the area code + the seven(7)-digit telephone number**. This is true even if you are calling another number in the 310 area code. Today, within the 310 area code, callers can reach others in the same area code by dialing only 7-digits **or** by dialing 1 + the area code + the 7-digit telephone number. Starting July 26, 7-digit dialing within the 310 area code will no longer work. To help ease the change, you can start using the new dialing procedure within 310 *now: dial all your calls in the 310 area as 1 + 310 + 7-digit telephone number!* Break the habit; don't wait until July 26!

This change is necessary because the geographic area that uses the 310 area code is adding a second area code, 424, this August. Because of this area's demand for telephone numbers, an area code had to be added. This will take form of an overlay. It will be the first geographic region in California to have two area codes. Remember, start dialing 1 + the area code, and the 7-digit number for all calls now: it works!.

Please note that you can still dial calls to 211, 311, 411, 611, 711 and 911 in the same way.

### **Supplemental Information:**

First there were telephones that operated on wire. Then there were cellular phones and pagers that were wireless. Thereafter, every business and many homes seemed to need fax machines. When the Internet went public, people began using computers to communicate over phone lines with modems. It seems that we cannot get enough communications technology to meet our evolving needs. All these services are *telecommunications* services, which need telephone numbers to work.

There are almost eight (8) million numbers in an area code. When those numbers are close to running out, a new area code is needed to provide more numbers. The traditional way of adding an area code was to divide the region of the existing area code and give the new area code to one side and the old area to the other side- this is called a "split". However, eventually regions get too small to divide further. An alternative to splits is an "overlay" where more than one area code can co-exist in the same location. That is what's happening to the 310; a second area code, 424, is being added to the existing area code. This *overlay covers* the same region as the existing 310 area code.

### **Questions for Discussion:**

1. What is your area code? (Some children live outside the 310 area code.)
1. How many phone calls do you make every day?
2. How many telephone numbers do you and your family have? How many telephone numbers do your parents have for their work?
3. Do you make (any) (many) calls using 1 + area code + 7-digit telephone number?
4. Can you start dialing 1 and the area code now?

More information about the overlay is available at <http://www.cpuc.ca.gov/310overlay>.